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SECRET 231422Z JAN 69 CITE 6166

PRIORITY DIRECTOR, (EYES ONLY)

23 JAN 69 IN 77894

DESP. BY REF.

REFS A. DIRECTOR 67764

MAB

5. S001 (W 70804) **

1. BRIEFED ON WOFIRM STAND IN FELFE

PLAN MORNING 23 JANUARY. WAS RATHER DISAPPOINTED, OF

COURSE, BUT STATED THAT IF HE WERE IN POSITION IN

CURRENT CLIMATE WITH WOLADY ADMINISTRATION CHANGE HE WOULD

PROBABLY MAKE SAME DECISION. STATED THAT THIS WAS

THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL DECISION HE HAS HAD TO MAKE

SINCE HE TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF CATUSK.

2. AFTER MEETING ALONE WITH CALLED IN

ALIASES ACKERMANN AND CASTROP (ALIAS HARTWIG ILL) AND ADVISED

THEM OF WOFIRM POSITION, EXPRESSING HIS DISAPPOINTMENT BUT

POINTING OUT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WOFIRM'S STANCE AGAINST

JOINING OPERATION. CATUSKERS THEN DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVES,

SPECULATING AS TO WHICH LIAISON PARTNER MIGHT EXTEND COOPERATION

THEY HAD FIRST SOUGHT FROM WOFIRM. BRITISH, FRENCH, AND SWISS

WERE MENTIONED AMONG OTHERS, BUT NO INDICATION OF PREFERENCE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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REVEALED. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED PROCEEDING ON THEIR OWN,
BUT COULD NOT IDENTIFY A EUROPEAN PUBLISHING FIRM TO HANDLE
MEMOIRS. THEY THOUGHT THAT ALIAS WINTERSTEIN MIGHT BE ABLE
TO PUT HIS FINGER ON A GERMAN PUBLISHER, BUT IF NOT THEY MENTIONED
POSSIBILITY OF CONTACTING AN AMERICAN PUBLISHING HOUSE WHICH
HAS BRANCH OR AFFILIATION IN EUROPE. (SEARCH FOR PUBLISHER
WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL OPERATION WILL HAVE RESULTED IN FELFE'S
REQUEST TO REMAIN IN WEST. BY CAREFUL SELECTION AND HANDLING
OF TRUSTED CUT-OUT, CATUSK SEES NO DANGER OF SHOWING THEIR
INVOLVEMENT.) IN MIDST OF THIS, ³ ASKED ² TO
DISREGARD WHAT HE WAS HEARING. IN VIEW OF ³
DISAPPOINTMENT AT WOFIRM'S REFUSAL TO JOIN THE DANCE, BELIEVE
IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE HE DELIBERATELY PERMITTED DISCUSSION
WITH HIS LIEUTENANTS IN ² PRESENCE AND MADE POINT OF
MENTIONING CONTACT WITH EUROPEAN BRANCH OF AMERICAN PUBLISHING
HOUSE.

3. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION, ² ASKED IF A
RECORDING HAD BEEN MADE OF TALKS BETWEEN FELFE AND PSYCHIATRIST.
THE REPLY WAS AFFIRMATIVE, AND IN ANSWER TO ² UNSPOKEN
QUESTION ACKERMANN RATHER VEHEMENTLY STATED THAT THEY HAD NO

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INTENTION AT THIS TIME TO UTILIZE TAPE AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON FELFE, CHIEFLY BECAUSE OF THEIR FEELING OF OBLIGATION TO THE PSYCHIATRIST FOR HIS EFFORTS.

4. AFTER CASTROP AND ACKERMANN LEFT, ³ WAS ASKED HIS OPINION AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF KEEPING THE MATTER SECRET IF, IN ADDITION TO KIESINGER, CARSTENS, AND BENDA, CATUSK BRIEFED HEINEMANN, WERNER, AND POSSIBLY BRANDT. ²

MENTIONED HEINEMANN'S PREVIOUS STRONG ENDEAVORS IN SUPPORT OF FELFE RELEASE FOR VARIOUS EXCHANGE ATTRACTIONS. ³ READILY ADMITTED THAT, WERE THE PLAN TO BE REVEALED IN ITS ENTIRETY TO ANY SPD GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RUN INTO STRONG OPPOSITION AND PROBABLE LEAKAGE.

THEY HOPE TO HOLD FULL KNOWLEDGE OF PLAN TO CARSTENS, AND FOLLOW UP WITH ONLY PARTIAL, SANITIZED BRIEFINGS TO NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AT STATE SECRETARY, RATHER THAN MINISTERIAL, LEVEL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AT TIME OF EXCHANGE.

5. IT IS ³ INTENTION TO FLY TO BONN AGAIN ON 23 JAN TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH CARSTENS AND TO GO AHEAD IF CARSIENS CONCURS--PROVIDING, OF COURSE, THAT CATUSK CAN WORK OUT DETAILS FOR SAFEHAVEN, PROTECTION, PUBLISHING MEMOIRS,

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ETC. CATUSK FORESEES NO PROBLEM WHATEVER WITH REGARD TO FINANCIAL ASPECTS, FOR THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT FELFE'S MEMOIRS WOULD EASILY BRING IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THAT EXTENDED. FROM TATAL TONE OF CONVERSATION, IT IS EXPECTED THAT CATUSK INTENDS, WITH CARSTENS' APPROVAL, TO GO AHEAD WITH OPERATION UNDER STRICTLY GERMAN CONDUCT AND WITHOUT ANY OTHER LIAISON SERVICE BECOMING INVOLVED. OFFICIALLY VIS-A-VIS WOFIRM, ³ ASKED THAT THE PLAN BE CONSIDERED "DROPPED."

6. ² AGAIN THANKED ³ FOR FIRST APPROACHING WOFIRM AND GIVING US BENEFIT THEIR INSIGHT, AS WELL AS FOR THE UNDERSTANDING MANNER IN WHICH HE ACCEPTED OUR POSITION AGAINST COOPERATING IN THE PROPOSAL.

7. VIEW ³ DISAPPOINTMENT, STRONGLY ENDORSE ¹ VIEW REF B THAT IT IMPORTANT FOR ⁸ ⁹ TO TAKE CONCERTED STAND IN THIS MATTER, AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDER WRITING "DEAR GERD" LETTER OR MESSAGE WHICH WOULD PERSONALLY UNDERLINE POSITION CONVEYED IN OFFICIAL CHANNELS AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR CONSIDERATION WOFIRM EQUITIES (I.E., IN ADDITION OUR INTEREST RECOVERING STUDENTS, FELFE WAS PENETRATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS OF WOFIRM

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TRUSTEESHIP ARRANGEMENT WITH CATUSK⁵), AND GIVING US OPPORTUNITY JOIN IN OPERATION. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT WOFIRM POSITION WAS MOST DIFFICULT ONE TO COME BY IN VIEW OF OUR STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THE RELEASE OF THE 20 CATUSK⁵ AGENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS THE THREE STUDENTS.

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C/S Comment: Hqs feels WOFIRM should not be in any way involved Felte scheme.
 **Station passing firm statement to on Hqs position.

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